



# COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

In reply quote No.

EIGHTH FLOOR,  
DA COSTA BUILDING,  
68 GRENFELL STREET,  
ADELAIDE.

## RURAL PRODUCTION

1958/59

South Australia

Bulletin No. 13 of 1959

The statistics contained in this bulletin summarize detailed information published in Bulletin No. 9, "Livestock Statistics" and No. 10, "Cereal Statistics" recently issued from this office, and show in addition, greater detail of areas and yields of other crops, rural employment, usage of artificial fertilizers, machinery, exports and also some South Australian records associated with rural production.

## LAND UTILIZATION

The area of South Australia is 243,244,800 acres, of which 156,613,880 acres or 64.39% were in occupation at 31st December, 1958. In 1958/59 the area of rural holdings totalled 152,311,915 acres, of which a record area of 9,299,703 acres were under crops, fallow and sown pastures.

Area under crop in 1958/59 is the highest since 1940/41. A considerable fall in area under green fodder was more than offset by increases in area of cereals and hay. Since 1945/46, area under fallow has been halved, but area of sown pastures has risen from 453,421 acres to the record area of 4,349,169 acres in 1957/58 and 4,198,083 acres in 1958/59.

### Land Utilization on Rural Holdings

	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Cereals for grain	3,086,307	3,113,279	3,129,089	3,009,385	3,278,114
Field Peas (grain)	35,280	34,298	30,496	37,168	33,540
Hay	256,525	325,673	298,794	290,926	419,566
Green Fodder	363,392	339,161	367,115	424,508	264,848
Vineyards	60,612	59,862	57,409	57,439	56,749
Orchards	30,507	32,998	33,998	35,295	37,237
Vegetables (a)	15,579	16,968	18,785	17,909	17,723
Other crops	47,034	49,374	43,227	33,906	39,771
Total Crops	3,895,236	3,971,613	3,978,913	3,906,536	4,147,548
Sown Pastures -					
Lucerne	333,898	248,602	294,405	326,847	288,553
Clover & other	2,628,697	2,599,652	3,958,426	4,022,322	3,909,530
Fallow Land	1,233,159	1,075,839	909,121	752,622	954,072
Balance of Holdings	141,288,116	142,069,755	140,790,603	143,036,733	143,012,212
Total Holdings	149,379,106	149,965,461	149,931,468	152,045,060	152,311,915

(a) Excludes vegetables grown for stock fodder and for vegetable seed.

RURAL EMPLOYMENT

The number of persons engaged and the value of wages paid during the twelve months ended 31st March in each of the last 3 years are shown in the following table. Total wages and salaries paid includes the value of keep where applicable. Females engaged mainly in domestic duties or any other workers engaged only part time on rural holdings are excluded.

FULL TIME RURAL WORKERS

	1957		1958		1959	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<u>Permanent Workers</u>						
Owners, Occupiers, etc.	25,805	2,621	24,839	1,718	23,329	2,192
Unpaid relatives	2,335	707	2,406	472	3,270	848
Paid employees	8,265	557	7,950	470	8,369	585
Wages paid £'000	5,166	190	5,263	183	5,712	224
<u>Temporary Workers (a)</u>						
Paid employees (in March)	14,985	3,747	16,160	3,923	17,455	4,649
Wages paid £'000	4,676	268	4,826	273	4,978	335

(a) Working full time during period of engagement.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS USED.

The increase in area under crop in 1958/59 was matched by a corresponding increase in area fertilized during 1958. Manure used on crops reached a record total of 192,168 tons.

In recent years there has been a considerable rise in top-dressing of pastures - from 24,589 tons on 704,950 acres in 1943 to the record of 236,291 tons on 4,005,002 acres in 1957. There was a slight fall in area top-dressed and manure used in 1958.

CROPS MANURED AND PASTURES TOP-DRESSED

	Unit	1955	1956	1957	1958
Crops manured	Acres	3,405,227	3,399,705	3,462,521	3,692,387
Manure used	Tons	176,935	175,350	182,248	192,168
Cropped area manured	%	85.7	85.4	88.6	89.0
Manure per acre	lbs.	116.4	115.5	117.9	116.6
Pastures manured	Acres	3,498,832	3,676,932	4,005,002	3,715,561
Manure used	Tons	203,847	214,601	236,291	218,728
Manure per acre	lbs.	130.5	130.7	132.2	131.9

The next table shows quantities of superphosphate and other fertilizers used in 1958. The 398,240 tons of superphosphate included 37,029 tons with trace elements - 9,070 tons on crops and 27,959 tons on pastures.

PRINCIPAL CROPS AND PASTURE MANURED, 1958

	Area Manured	Fertilizers used		Total per acre
		Superphosphate	Other	
	Acres	Tons	Tons	lbs.
Wheat (all purposes)	1,412,662	66,663	349	106.3
Vegetables	14,459	3,184	3,392	1,018.8
Fruit and Vines	55,324	4,193	6,376	427.9
Other Crops	2,209,942	107,015	996	109.5
TOTAL CROPS	3,692,387	181,055	11,113	116.6
Pastures	3,715,561	217,185	1,543	131.9
GRAND TOTAL	7,407,948	398,240	12,656	124.2



# AREA AND YIELD OF CROPS

The following tables show details of areas and yields of the principal crops grown in South Australia during 1958/59 compared with previous years.

## Cereals and Hay

Areas and yields of cereals, field peas and hay for the last five years are summarized in the following table. (Further details are shown in Bulletin No. 10, "Cereal Statistics 1958/59".)

### Cereals and Hay

	Unit	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
Wheat -						
Area for grain	Acres	1,689,103	1,609,029	1,438,289	1,331,302	1,407,413
Yield	Bush.	31,462,737	28,891,524	31,431,547	14,913,988	32,032,232
Yield per acre	Bush.	18.63	17.96	21.85	11.20	22.76
Barley -						
Area for grain	Acres	1,019,673	1,041,806	1,221,737	1,211,762	1,332,473
Yield	Bush.	18,376,283	24,597,979	34,002,876	17,551,669	37,664,492
Yield per acre	Bush.	18.02	23.61	27.83	14.48	28.27
Oats -						
Area for grain	Acres	339,640	425,026	427,192	427,366	481,076
Yield	Bush.	4,508,117	7,280,340	8,314,296	3,422,525	11,992,155
Yield per acre	Bush.	13.27	17.13	19.47	8.01	24.93
Rye -						
Area for grain	Acres.	37,891	37,418	41,871	38,955	57,152
Yield	Bush.	178,650	193,330	251,793	152,493	446,244
Yield per acre	Bush.	4.71	5.17	6.01	3.91	7.81
Field Peas -						
Area for grain	Acres	35,280	34,298	30,496	37,168	33,540
Yield	Bush.	419,194	584,320	632,795	188,376	517,812
Yield per acre	Bush.	11.88	17.04	20.75	5.07	15.44
Hay (all Kinds) -						
Area	Acres	256,525	325,673	298,794	290,926	419,566
Yield	Tons	329,618	460,821	453,270	304,094	671,527
Yield per acre	Tons	1.28	1.41	1.52	1.05	1.60

## Vegetables

The following table shows areas and yields of vegetables for human consumption only and excludes acreage grown for stock fodder and of vegetables grown for seed (with the exception of potatoes).

### Area and Production of Vegetables

	Acres		Yields		
	1957/58	1958/59	Unit	1957/58	1958/59
Beans - French	325	328	bush.	62,920	64,375
Beetroot	144	143	tons	1,011(a)	969
Cabbage	370	380	doz.	164,722	174,594
Carrots	327	297	tons	3,800(a)	3,788
Cauliflowers	576	507	doz.	213,806	192,330
Celery	430	413	crates	244,377	240,749
Lettuce	357	369	cases	156,828	161,654
Onions	694	602	tons	5,945	5,318
Parsnips	89	87	tons	788(a)	781
Peas - Green	5,252	5,643	bush.	316,041	342,638
Potatoes (b)	6,260	6,168	tons	49,965	50,587
Pumpkins, etc.	887	729	tons	5,162	4,303
Tomatoes	1,224	996	bush.	573,182	512,748
Turnips	273	293	tons	1,797	2,114
All other	701	768	-	-	-
Total	17,909	17,723	-	-	-

(a) Revised. (b) Includes potatoes grown for seed.

## Vineyards

The area under vines (bearing and non-bearing) reached a peak of 62,121 acres in 1953/54, and has declined to 56,749 acres (54,337 acres bearing and 2,412 acres non-bearing) in 1958/59. Particulars below are for bearing vines only.

### Area and Production of Vines

	Acres bearing		Yields		
	1957/58	1958/59	Unit	1957/58	1958/59
Vines -					
Wine making	41,767	40,785	tons	141,559	132,353
Table use	231	214	tons	1,018	784
Drying	13,413	13,338	tons	56,455	62,495
Produce -					
Wine (a)	-	-	gall.	26,399,633	24,900,000(b)
Currants	-	-	cwt.	96,480	86,400(b)
Sultanas	-	-	cwt.	195,820	212,780(b)
Raisins	-	-	cwt.	30,300	23,120(b)

(a) Excluding liquid gallons of spirits added to fortified wine. (b) Preliminary.

## Orchards

The total area under orchards has been increasing steadily in recent years, and successive records have been established in 1956/57 (33,998 acres), 1957/58 (35,295 acres) and 1958/59 (37,237 acres). However yields of fruit were generally slightly lower in 1958/59 than in the previous seasons

### Number of fruit trees and yields of fruit

	Bearing Trees		Yields		
	1957/58	1958/59	Unit	1957/58	1958/59
Almonds	308,334	294,984	cwt.	17,496	14,501
Apples	549,290	544,531	bush.	1,219,910	1,021,938
Apricots	354,167	363,810	bush.	505,819	714,257
Cherries	54,162	53,088	bush.	49,003	41,423
Citrus -					
Lemons, Limes	23,953	22,286	bush.	50,847	43,843
Navel Oranges	298,442	305,120	bush.	980,106	934,077
Valencia Oranges	254,283	274,825	bush.	709,645	715,469
Other Citrus	51,371	51,425	bush.	157,071	168,364
Figs	16,756	16,859	bush.	27,150	25,427
Nectarines	18,389	17,887	bush.	43,205	34,223
Olives	35,545	34,767	cwt.	4,720	3,090(a)
Peaches	248,055	259,033	bush.	689,921	655,222
Pears	152,059	153,705	bush.	402,147	294,679
Plums, Prunes	121,166	113,937	bush.	142,123	109,188

(a) Preliminary.

## BEEKEEPING

The production of honey & beeswax fluctuates considerably from year to year, depending upon seasonal conditions. Details of beekeeping are shown below:

### Number of Hives and Production

	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57(a)	1957/58(a)	1958/59(a)
Beekeepers	1,018	926	817	936	838
Productive Hives	58,296	62,336	74,137	56,245	56,478
Unproductive Hives	21,004	14,582	12,695	27,831	16,569
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Honey	3,671,249	5,114,847	8,169,504	4,150,911	5,452,852
Beeswax	59,708	69,606	116,305	86,488	80,173

(a) Excludes particulars for producers with less than 5 hives.



# LIVESTOCK

The number of sheep in South Australia, which fell from a previous record of 10,370,565 in 1943 to 6,786,538 in 1946, has since increased rapidly to a new record of 15,634,329 in 1959.

Numbers of livestock, slaughterings and production in the last five years are summarized in the following table.

## LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND PRODUCTION

	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
<u>Livestock</u>	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	12,817,135	13,584,867	14,983,848	15,236,545	15,634,326
Cattle -					
Dairy Cows (a)	199,275	195,039	194,502	191,205	187,858
Other Dairy	69,646	69,264	70,982	67,593	60,567
Beef	254,896	301,752	356,093	338,443	327,643
Horses	48,943	44,470	41,049	35,678	33,290
Pigs	84,502	72,920	92,180	108,343	98,374
Poultry	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,321,730
<u>Lambing</u>					
Ewes mated	5,242,173	5,654,541	6,142,419	6,567,967	6,009,618
Lambs marked	4,014,794	4,439,656	4,909,922	5,056,130	4,571,681
<u>Slaughterings</u>					
Sheep	1,351,500	1,254,172	1,254,183	1,894,120	1,763,278
Lambs	1,447,427	1,103,396	1,074,890	1,383,696	1,375,171
Cattle and Calves	232,892	227,382	251,965	282,517	287,283
Pigs	136,281	132,229	123,700	175,303	179,297
<u>Production</u>	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.
Wool Clip	139,675	158,182	175,274	168,194	170,828
Wool Production (b)	155,761	173,697	188,808	185,843	189,000 (c)
Butter	19,498	19,541	19,260	16,061	16,000 (c)
Cheese	29,347	28,297	26,787	23,510	25,000 (c)
Bacon and Ham	7,254	7,677	7,295	6,967	6,875 (c)
	'000 gal.	'000 gal.	'000 gal.	'000 gal.	'000 gal.
Milk	90,700	90,350	89,900	80,600	83,650 (c)

(a) Dairy cows include those "in milk" and "dry"; and "springing" heifers

(b) Includes wool exported on skins, dead and fellmongered wool

(c) Preliminary

N.A. Not available

# MACHINERY

Numbers of principal machines on rural holdings as at March for the last five years are shown in the following table.

## NUMBER OF MACHINES ON RURAL HOLDINGS

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Tractors - Wheeled	20,074	21,155	22,826	23,952	25,116
Crawler	3,036	3,190	3,186	3,336	3,416
Rotary Hoes	2,734	3,242	3,414	3,507	4,015
Fertilizer Distributors	6,554	6,431	6,683	6,895	7,545
Drills and Combines	N.A.	17,992	18,427	18,452	19,278
Harvesters etc.	N.A.	13,081	13,030	13,024	13,053
Hay Presses	941	801	796	689	715
Hay Balers	1,169	1,582	1,984	2,184	2,724
Milking Machines - No.	6,363	6,920	7,208	7,344	7,537
Units	14,833	16,090	16,740	17,206	17,777
Shearing Machines - No.	11,452	12,134	12,690	13,280	13,778
Stands	20,946	22,355	23,373	24,697	25,586

# PRODUCTION RECORDS

Total and average yields of barley and oats exceeded the previous records set in 1956/57. Yield per acre of wheat also reached a peak in 1958/59, but total yield was only two-thirds of the 1931/32 record (from an area of 1,407,413 acres compared with 4,071,370 acres in 1931/32).

Sheep numbers were a new record for the fifth year in succession.

## Rural Production Records

Item	Unit	Quantity	Year	Item	Unit	Quantity	Year
<u>Cereals</u>				<u>Livestock</u>			
Total yield -				<u>Numbers</u>			
Wheat	bush.	48,093,102	1931-32	Sheep	no.	15,634,326	1958-59
Barley	"	37,664,492	1958-59	Beef cattle	"	356,093	1956-57
Oats	"	11,992,155	1958-59	Dairy cattle	"	268,921	1954-55
Yield/acre -				Horses	"	283,641	1912-13
Wheat (a)	bush.	22.76	1958-59	Pigs	"	190,068	1939-40
Barley (a)	"	28.27	1958-59				
Oats (a)	"	24.93	1958-59	<u>Production</u>			
<u>Vineyards</u>				Wool -			
Grapes	tons	215,736	1952-53	Clip	lb.	175,273,590	1956-57
Currants	cwt.	209,140	1943-44	Production (b)	"	188,808,000	1956-57
Raisins	"	117,505	1953-54	Lambs marked	no.	5,056,130	1957-58
Sultanas	"	333,300	1943-44	Butter	lb.	22,938,381	1939-40
Wine	gall.	26,399,633	1957-58	Cheese	"	29,346,931	1954-55
<u>Orchards</u>				Bacon & ham	"	11,734,764	1945-46
Almonds	cwt.	17,937	1949-50	Honey	"	10,906,372	1948-49
Apples	bush.	1,750,000	1940-41	<u>Area under -</u>			
Apricots	"	775,532	1956-57	Crop	acres	5,426,074	1930-31
Oranges	"	1,759,529	1957-58	Fallow	"	2,606,623	1932-33
Pears	"	402,147	1957-58	Sown pastures	"	4,349,169	1957-58

- (a) Slightly higher yields were recorded from small acreages over 100 years ago.  
 (b) Preliminary 1958/59 estimate of 189,000,000 lb. slightly in excess of 1956/57 record.

## OVERSEA EXPORTS

The following table shows the quantities of principal rural commodities exported overseas from South Australia during the last five years. Interstate trade and oversea trade via other States have not been included.

### Principal Rural Products Exported

Commodity	Unit	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59(a)
Butter	'000 lb.	2,229	2,232	2,429	968	1,039
Cheese	'000 lb.	12,379	13,643	9,259	5,800	8,972
Eggs - In Shell	'000 doz.	2,030	1,902	1,357	1,301	323
Not in Shell	'000 lb.	4,531	4,269	2,159	1,960	278
Fruit, Dried - Currants	'000 lb.	9,241	8,933	5,569	8,037	8,043
Raisins	'000 lb.	27,797	22,120	19,665	22,167	22,324
Other	'000 lb.	3,707	2,037	1,322	1,010	2,322
Fresh - Apples	'000 bush.	21	207	249	353	219
Preserved, Pulped	'000 lb.	10,600	20,419	13,826	13,099	9,569
Flour (including Semolina)	tons	68,650	72,721	87,202	56,650	63,367
Grain - Wheat	'000 bush.	13,972	15,897	20,121	14,748	14,542
Barley	'000 bush.	14,734	13,912	18,709	17,592	17,793
Oats	'000 bush.	596	1,529	1,845	454	2,119
Honey	'000 lb.	3,729	2,218	1,738	3,717	1,116
Meat (lamb)	'000 lb.	25,631	17,240	13,471	16,732	21,475
Sheep Skins	'000 no.	2,328	2,101	2,236	3,425	3,095
Wine	'000 gall.	1,124	1,103	1,571	1,401	1,672
Wool - Greasy	'000 lb.	99,638	121,913	134,434	117,256	134,220
Other	'000 lb.	9,754	10,743	11,525	11,256	12,799

- (a) Preliminary figures and subject to revision.